problems of high prices of onions in Delhi, action has been taken to distribute onion through public distribution agencies at a subsidised rate of Rs. 10 per kg. form 14.7.98. Govt. has decided to import 1.5 million tonnes of wheat through State Trading Corporation to augment its availability. Some of the essential, commodities like rice, wheat, sugar, imported palmolein and kerosene are also supplied through the Public Distribution System and Cooperative Stores at below market prices. Stringent actions are being taken against hoarders and black marketeers and others indulging in unfair trade practices under the Essential Commodities Act and Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act etc. by the State/UT Governments.

Statement

Retail prices of selected essential commodities at selected centres.

(Rs. per kg.)

Commodities	20.3.98				1.7.98			
	Delhi	Mumbai	Calcutta	Hyderabad	Delhi	Mumbai	Calcutta	Hyderabad
RICE								
Common	10.00	12.00	9.10	8.00	10.00	12.00	11.00	8.00
Fine	22.00	12.50	N.R.	12.00	24.00	N.R.	N.R.	12.50
Wheat	7.50	13.00	N.R.	7.50	6.50	12.00	7.00	7.50
PUSLES								
Gram	23.00	28.00	20.00	20.00	16.00	22.00	20.00	16.00
Arhar	25.00	32.00	26.00	26.00	29.00	34.00	31.00	30.00
Masur	26.00	27.00	27.00	21.00	26.00	28.00	26.00	22.00
Suji	12.00	12.00	10.50	13.00	12.00	11.00	10.50	13.50
EDIBLE OILS								
Groundnut Oil	45.00	44.00	52.00	40.00	56.00	54.00	54.00	50.00
Mustard Oil	38.00	46.00	38.00	44.00	50.00	54.00	50.00	50.00
Vanaspati	40.00	45.50	38.00	40.00	56.00	52.75	53.00	54.00
Salt	6.00	6.00	6.00	5.50	6.00	6.00	6.00	5.50
Sugar	16.00	15.60	16.00	15.50	16.00	16.00	17.00	15.00
Washing Soap	24.00	29.00	7.20*	7.50*	24.00	29.00	7.25*	7.50*

SOURCE : State Food & Civil Supplies Departments.
: Dte. of Eco. & Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture.
: *Price per cake.
: NR. Not Reported

Damage to Foodgrains in Kandla Due to Cyclone

3407. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the damage caused to the foodgrains as also the foodgrains destroyed due to the cyclone and rains at Kandla;

(b) the variety of foodgraind destroyed and their total cost; and

(c) whether they were stored in godowns or were lying in the open?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND

CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (c) A quantity of 756 MTs of Australian wheat out of 945 3 MT lying at Wharf and transit sheds of Kandla Port, has been affected due to cyclone and rains on 09.6.1998.

(b) Cost of the stocks damaged can be assessed on completion of the salvaging operations which are in progress.

देश में उपभोक्ता आन्दोलन

3408. **चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह यादव:** क्या खाद्य और उपभोक्ता मामले मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि उपभोक्ता संगठनों के सहयोग से देश में उपभोक्ता आन्दोलन जोर पकड़ रहा है;

(ख) क्या सरकार का ध्यान उपभोक्तावाद और उपभोक्ता न्यायालयों की उपयोगिता के खिलाफ अभियान चला रहे निहित स्वार्थ वाले लोगों की ओर दिलाया गया है; और

(ग) गत दो वर्षों में ऐसे कितने मामलों का पता चला है और उन पर किस प्रकार की कार्यवाही की गई है?

खाद्य और उपभोक्ता मामले मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सत्यपाल सिंह यादव): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) जी, नहीं।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Setting up of New Sugar Mills in Orissa

3409. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set-up new sugar mills in the State of Orissa;

(b) if so, the number of new sugar mills proposed to be set-up in 1998-99 in the State;

(c) whether some of the sugar mills set-up earlier in that State have fallen sick;

(d) if so, since when and the reaons for the sickness of those sugar mills; and

(e) the steps taken to revive those mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Central Government does not set up sugar mills in any part of the Country. It, however, grants letters of intent/ Industriasl licences for setting up of new sugar mills.

As on 31.5.98, 15 letters of intent issued for setting up of new sugar mills in the State of Orissa were under implementation. Generally, it takes about 3-4 years to set up a new sugar mill.

(c) to (e) As per information received from Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), at present, no sugar mill has been referred to BIFR under Section 15 of Sick Industrial Companies (special provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA).

Godowns in RPDS Areas in the North-East

3410. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of godowns with capacities in RPDS areas in the North-Eastern region, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that efforts are on to get land at different centres for expansion of existing capacity conventional godowns in the hilly and inaccessible areas of North-Eastern States;

(c) if so, the location wise details thereof and whether the lands are available and by when works will b started; and